

City of Clark Fork

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5 March 2010

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE, Douglas J. Wade
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000
Email: douglas.j.wade@usace.army.mil

Cc: U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator James E. Risch
U.S. Representative Walt Minnick
U.S. Representative Mike Simpson
State Senator Shawn Keough
State Senator Joyce Broadsword
State Representative George Eskridge
State Representative Eric Anderson

Subject: Docket Number - COE-2010-0007
Process for Requesting a Variance from Vegetation Standards for Levees and Floodwalls

This letter is to express our deep concern with the proposed process. For small communities such as Clark Fork with a levee, your proposed process creates a burden and potentially negative impact on the community. Clark Fork is the only community in Bonner County, Idaho with a levee.

The following components of your proposal, as we understand it, make it particularly burdensome and onerous:

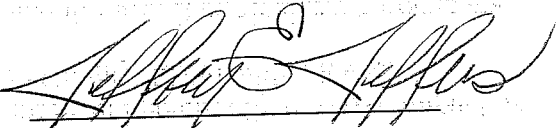
- Requiring the involvement of an engineer for all variances.
- Variances are location specific and not on a district level.
- Applications for variance that are processed at a national level instead of a district level.

Your process is forcing all regions of the country towards one standard. Due to the great variances of climate, vegetation, and environmental issues in our nation this does not make sense. Currently the Seattle District has one variance for our region. This has stood the test of time, does not require a prohibitive investment for a local community, and understands the issues and concerns of our area.

If our community loses the existing Seattle District variance, it is doubtful if we can afford the time and money involved in a site-specific variance. Further, the cost in public opinion, time, and money to bring our levees to another standard may not be feasible.

Our experience with the Seattle Regional office of the USACE has been excellent. We strongly feel that keeping variances at the district level provides the highest level of safety for our community and in addition provides the best level of customer satisfaction.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Jeffers, Mayor
City of Clark Fork, Idaho